Mr. C. Kumara Das: The Ashtamudi Lake lies only a few feet from the factory. But the water from it cannot be utilised as it is brackish.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi; May I know the total amount that would be required before fine clay is manufactured in the factory ?

Mr. C. Kumara Das: Something over 5 lakhs of rupees may be required.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: May I know why this was not included in the original estimate ?

Mr. C. Kumara Das: As I said earlier, about 40,000 rupees is now required for the purchase of the machinery, because the machinery ordered last year arrived only very late and could not be paid for from the last year's allotment. The other items also I have explained.

President: The idea is to use the woods available in our forests as far as possible.

The motion was put to the vote of the House and carried.

The grant was made.

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: Sir, I beg to move for a grant of Rs. 6,594 under the following two items of expenditure :—

(i) the appointment, temporarily, of two veterinary Inspectors on Rs. 50-75 each and staff at Minachil and Perumbavur for carrying on a compaign against anthrax—Rs. 1,844.

(ii) the erection of the cold storage plant in the Fisheries Section of the Agricultural Department—Rs. 4,750.

Sir, with regard to the first item a report was received early in the month of Kanni this year that anthrax had broken out in several villages in the taluks of Minachil and Todupuzha and that cattle were dying in large numbers on account of this disease. As soon as the report was received, the Veterinary Superintendent proceeded to the spot to make enquiries and investigations accompanied by the Tahsildar of Minachil and the Sanitary Circle Officer, Kottayam. They inspected the villages, advised the ryots on the sanitary measures to be adopted to check the spread of the disease and carried on inoculations with anti-anthrax serum. Sir, anthras is a very serious disease among cattle and when once the animal is afflicted with it, it is impossible to save it. The disease is borne by germs through the agency of air, water and soil and has become almost endemic in the taluks of Minachil and Todupuzha. It spreads chiefly through the ignorance of ryots who seldom adopt any

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[Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar.]

prophylactic measures. The best way to prevent the contagion is to segregate the affected animal and to effectively dispose of its excrements. But the carelessness and ignorance of the owners of these cattle and their shortsighted eagerness to save any scrap have led to many dangerous practices and have conduced to the rapid spread of the disease with the result that a very large number of cattle perish resulting in considerable loss.

Mr. K. R. Elankath: May I know when the first outbreak of the disease was known ?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: In Kanni this year.

Mr. K. R. Elankath: Sir, I want to know when the department first came to know of the prevalence of this disease ?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: It breaks out off and on in a sporadic form.

Mr. M. S. Anirudhan: What are the external symptoms of the disease ?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: When the animal is affected by the disease, it has a drooping appearance and gets fever which may range up to 105 degrees. The mucous membranes assume a brick-red colour and the animal develops colicky pains and dies within a short time.

President: Within how many days the animal meets with death ?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: I think if the attack is of a virulent type it takes only 3 to 4 hours for the animal to breathe its last.

It is therefore of the greatest importance, Sir, that a campaign should be set on foot immediately to bring the disease under control and to educate the ryots on the sanitary and prophylactic measures they have to adopt to combat the disease.

Mr. K. R. Elankath: Are there specialists in the department who can handle the situation ?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: The main work is the carrying on of propaganda among the ryots as to the methods of bringing the disease under control. The ignorant ryots freely skin the carcasses of the animals which die of this disease and go about selling the meat in the markets without realising the danger involved. They have to be educated on the proper methods of prevention of the spread of the disease. It is a disease which is communicable to human beings also.

In view of the great danger involved not only to live-stock but also to human population I request the House to sanction the Demand.

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With regard to the second item, namely, the cold storage plant, Sir, it is already under construction in the local Connemara Market. The work of construction has been entrusted to the Japanese firm who are supplying us the plant. They have sent in their own Engineers, and the work is being done under their own supervision. The Japanese Engineers have suggested certain additions and modifications to be made in the plant for re-cooling the water used in cooling the ammonia expansion tubes. I consider it necessary to accede to their request because we might then make the Japanese Engineers directly responsible for the proper working of the plant. The additional expenditure asked for is for these alterations in the plant. In view of the fact that there is immense possibility for the cold storage of fish in Travancore and that our fishery recources constitute an untapped source of potential wealth, I have no doubt that the House will allow this Demand also.

Mr. K. R. Elankath: May I know whether there is large storage of fish not sold in the markets which require cold storage for sale later when demand arises?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: Yes, and that is all the more the reason why the plant should be erected as early as possible.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: May I know whether the Japanese firm has undertaken to keep the plant in repair, and, if so, how long?

Mr. K R. Narayana Aiyar: No, Sir. They will put the plant into working order and give necessary advice.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: May I know whether there is any one here who can attend to the plant if it gets out of order?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: Yes.

The Demand was put to vote and carried. The grant was made.

SCIENTIFIC AND MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENT.

Rao Bahadur Rajyasevanirata Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 3,000 under Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.

This grant is intended for the purchase of Cameras and other equipment for the Photographic Department. This Department, as honourable members are aware, was till recently under a fairly high-paid photographer. He has now gone on leave preparatory to retirement. After he went on leave Government have reorganised the department and placed it under the control of the Director of

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